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WAGE RATES INDEXES, DECEMBER 1977 (PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Geoff Winter, Canberra 526573 or our State Office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616

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MAIN FEATURES

- In December 1977 the weighted average minimum weekly wage rate for adult males increased by \$2.11 (1.4 per cent) and that for adult females by \$2.03 (1.5 per cent).
- Indexation decisions affecting Federal and State awards accounted for all of these increases.
- In the year ended December 1977 the adult male wage rate index rose by 10.0 per cent, 94 per cent of the rise being attributable to indexation increases. For adult females the corresponding figures were 10.3 per cent and 97 per cent.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

More information on these statistics of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates* (6312.0) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. The indexes are designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of

wages as distinct from *salaries*; those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are therefore excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for the latest twelve months shown are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

4. For adult males the weekly wage rates exclude rural industry; in addition the hourly rates exclude shipping and stevedoring, for which data to compute hourly wages are not available. The weekly and hourly wage rates for adult females exclude rural industry, mining and quarrying and building and construction.

5. The annual changes shown in Tables 1, 2 and 4 measure the percentage change from the same month for the previous year. The percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes.

TABLE 1. WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES
ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of -	Adult males					Adult females				
	Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates		Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates	
	Wage rates \$	Annual change (a) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates \$	Annual change (a) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (b)
1976 -										
December	135.29	14.7	479.0	337.70	477.3	125.75	15.8	631.7	316.99	631.8
1977 -										
January	135.34	14.5	479.2	337.81	477.5	125.79	15.8	631.9	317.09	632.0
February	135.60	7.9	480.1	338.49	478.4	126.00	8.8	632.9	317.63	633.1
March	141.08	12.2	499.5	352.23	497.9	131.51	13.5	660.6	331.50	660.8
April	141.24	12.2	500.1	352.64	498.4	131.53	13.1	660.7	331.56	660.9
May	143.88	11.1	509.4	359.23	507.7	133.99	11.8	673.1	337.77	673.2
June	143.88	11.0	509.5	359.24	507.8	134.00	11.3	673.1	337.77	673.3
July	143.89	10.9	509.5	359.27	507.8	134.01	11.3	673.1	337.81	673.3
August	146.64	10.8	519.2	366.13	517.5	136.66	11.1	686.5	344.50	686.7
September	146.74	10.8	519.6	366.39	517.9	136.66	11.1	686.5	344.50	686.7
October	146.74	10.8	519.6	366.61	518.2	136.68	11.1	686.6	344.54	686.7
November	146.74	8.5	519.6	366.61	518.2	136.68	8.7	686.6	344.54	686.7
December	148.85	10.0	527.0	371.86	525.6	138.71	10.3	696.7	349.65	696.9

(a) See explanatory notes above. (b) Base : Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 2. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 DECEMBER 1977 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)							Annual change (a) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Mining and quarrying (b)	205.21	144.15	186.44	140.02	148.06	159.75	185.29	10.3	656.1
Manufacturing —									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	136.45	142.17	148.58	140.26	141.76	140.61	139.90	10.3	495.4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	136.52	137.37	139.75	136.16	140.47	132.75	137.12	10.3	485.5
Food, drink and tobacco	144.89	145.82	148.86	140.40	149.56	143.93	145.82	10.2	516.3
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	143.19	135.92	147.80	135.65	142.41	135.16	141.38	10.3	500.6
Paper, printing, etc.	144.89	153.12	162.16	150.99	155.74	145.25	150.12	9.8	531.6
Other manufacturing	143.40	143.24	144.65	142.24	141.76	136.92	143.11	10.2	506.7
All manufacturing groups	139.70	142.54	148.44	140.69	143.51	140.05	141.82	10.2	502.1
Building and construction	164.92	162.63	151.23	157.69	156.93	148.67	159.85	9.4	566.0
Railway services	135.30	130.25	152.09	135.51	125.93	135.74	137.57	10.6	487.1
Road and air transport	151.33	142.86	142.59	142.61	146.91	145.91	146.68	10.0	519.4
Shipping and stevedoring (c)	181.52	181.82	174.08	172.14	183.37	178.50	179.17	9.1	634.4
Communication	175.97	176.97	175.57	174.72	176.64	171.48	175.98	9.4	623.1
Wholesale and retail trade	148.06	150.24	149.69	145.10	145.82	150.05	148.49	10.0	525.8
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	153.61	150.40	155.94	142.34	147.92	163.01	151.93	9.8	538.0
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	141.15	137.21	139.44	133.78	127.29	132.04	137.86	10.3	488.1
All industry groups (a)	149.72	147.39	152.76	145.50	147.11	147.46	148.85	10.0	527.0

For footnotes see Table below.

TABLE 3. HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 DECEMBER 1977 (a)

Weighted average minimum hourly rates payable and index numbers of hourly rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (cents)							Index numbers (Base : Weighted average hourly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.	
Mining and quarrying (b)	574.05	360.36	492.17	350.06	387.95	408.37	499.98	
Manufacturing —								
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	341.25	355.68	371.67	350.64	354.72	351.52	349.91	
Textiles, clothing and footwear	341.30	343.42	349.37	340.39	351.18	331.88	342.79	
Food, drink and tobacco	362.73	364.54	372.15	351.00	373.90	359.81	364.72	
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	357.98	339.79	369.49	339.13	356.02	337.89	353.46	
Paper, printing, etc.	362.23	383.35	405.41	377.46	397.20	363.12	375.79	
Other manufacturing	358.50	358.42	361.63	356.43	353.59	342.59	357.91	
All manufacturing groups	349.37	356.55	371.18	351.87	359.04	350.17	354.69	
Building and construction	412.31	406.58	378.08	394.23	392.32	371.68	399.62	
Railway services	338.26	325.96	380.23	338.78	314.83	339.35	344.01	
Road and air transport	378.33	357.16	356.47	356.52	367.28	364.77	366.70	
Communication	460.99	462.37	458.72	462.65	461.51	449.23	460.83	
Wholesale and retail trade	370.16	375.60	374.24	362.74	364.56	375.13	371.21	
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	391.57	386.31	394.56	362.83	373.72	413.86	387.09	
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	352.88	343.02	348.61	334.46	318.22	330.09	344.66	
All industry groups (a)	375.09	367.57	381.83	362.20	367.16	365.15	371.86	
Index numbers								
(Base : Weighted average hourly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100)								
Mining and quarrying (b)	811.4	509.3	695.6	494.8	548.3	577.2	706.7	
Manufacturing —								
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	482.3	502.7	525.3	495.6	501.4	496.9	494.6	
Textiles, clothing and footwear	482.4	485.4	493.8	481.1	496.4	469.1	484.5	
Food, drink and tobacco	512.7	515.3	526.0	496.1	528.5	508.6	515.5	
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	506.0	480.3	522.2	479.3	503.2	477.6	499.6	
Paper, printing, etc.	512.0	541.8	573.0	533.5	561.4	513.2	531.2	
Other manufacturing	506.7	506.6	511.1	503.8	499.8	484.2	505.9	
All manufacturing groups	493.8	504.0	524.6	497.3	507.5	494.9	501.3	
Building and construction	582.8	574.7	534.4	557.2	554.5	525.3	564.8	
Railway services	478.1	460.7	537.4	478.8	445.0	479.6	486.2	
Road and air transport	534.7	504.8	503.9	503.9	519.1	515.6	518.3	
Communication	651.6	653.5	648.4	653.9	652.3	635.0	651.3	
Wholesale and retail trade	523.2	530.9	529.0	512.7	515.3	530.2	524.7	
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	553.5	546.0	557.7	512.8	528.2	585.0	547.1	
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	498.8	484.8	492.7	472.7	449.8	466.6	487.1	
All industry groups (a)	530.2	519.5	539.7	511.9	519.0	516.1	525.6	

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) For mining, wage rates used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (c) Includes wage rates (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, officers and engineers.

TABLE 4. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 DECEMBER 1977 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Wage rates (\$)						Annual Index Nos. change (a) (Base 1954 = % 100) (b)		
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Manufacturing —									
Engineering, metals, vehicles etc.	133.52	140.62	135.82	134.59	137.32	135.34	136.15	10.4	683.9
Textiles, clothing and footwear	131.54	130.57	131.05	133.04	132.58	127.90	131.07	10.6	658.4
Food, drink and tobacco	137.99	138.00	139.90	136.39	125.75	133.18	137.30	10.5	689.7
Other manufacturing	135.37	137.51	138.98	134.15	134.44	130.55	136.20	10.4	684.2
All manufacturing groups	133.63	134.16	135.17	134.38	131.99	130.76	133.91	10.5	672.6
Transport and communication	140.01	142.15	146.63	145.26	139.00	147.71	142.22	10.0	714.4
Wholesale and retail trade	146.18	150.00	146.66	145.16	142.64	138.98	146.69	10.1	736.8
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	145.71	145.90	143.54	139.42	140.41	143.71	144.66	10.0	726.6
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	136.25	133.30	131.71	129.94	120.73	127.67	133.09	10.6	668.5
All industry groups (a)	138.65	138.89	140.52	138.64	136.06	134.91	138.71	10.3	696.7

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 5. WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES, ALL GROUPS (a) (\$)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of —	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES (a)									
1976 —									
December	136.14	134.10	139.14	132.20	132.29	134.14	135.98	134.45	135.29
1977 —									
January	136.23	134.10	139.14	132.24	132.33	134.14	135.98	134.55	135.34
February	136.23	134.10	139.14	132.24	136.26	134.14	135.98	135.15	135.60
March	142.01	139.81	144.89	137.96	138.04	139.88	141.73	140.30	141.08
April	142.08	139.85	144.91	137.96	139.72	139.93	141.75	140.62	141.24
May	144.80	142.46	147.63	140.53	141.97	142.50	144.39	143.25	143.88
June	144.79	142.46	147.63	140.63	141.97	142.50	144.39	143.26	143.88
July	144.80	142.46	147.63	140.65	142.00	142.50	144.39	143.28	143.89
August	147.60	145.26	150.53	143.40	143.97	145.35	147.22	145.95	146.64
September	147.57	145.27	150.53	143.39	145.55	145.35	147.22	146.17	146.74
October	147.56	145.27	150.54	143.40	145.58	145.35	147.22	146.17	146.74
November	147.56	145.27	150.54	143.40	145.59	145.35	147.22	146.17	146.74
December	149.72	147.39	152.76	145.50	147.11	147.46	149.35	148.24	148.85
ADULT FEMALES (a)									
1976 —									
December	125.72	125.98	127.52	125.62	122.64	122.15	119.14	131.49	125.75
1977 —									
January	125.72	125.98	127.52	125.62	123.38	122.15	119.14	131.56	125.79
February	125.72	125.98	127.53	125.62	127.46	122.15	119.14	131.96	126.00
March	131.45	131.70	133.23	131.46	128.88	127.85	124.84	137.30	131.51
April	131.45	131.70	133.23	131.46	129.25	127.85	124.84	137.34	131.53
May	133.94	134.18	135.73	133.91	131.38	130.28	127.18	139.91	133.99
June	133.94	134.18	135.73	133.93	131.38	130.28	127.18	139.91	134.00
July	133.94	134.18	135.73	133.93	131.66	130.28	127.18	139.94	134.01
August	136.61	136.84	138.45	136.60	133.98	132.90	129.72	142.70	136.66
September	136.61	136.84	138.45	136.60	133.98	132.90	129.72	142.70	136.66
October	136.61	136.84	138.45	136.60	134.27	132.90	129.72	142.72	136.68
November	136.61	136.84	138.45	136.60	134.27	132.90	129.72	142.72	136.68
December	138.65	138.89	140.52	138.64	136.06	134.91	131.66	144.83	138.71

(a) See explanatory notes on page 1.

TABLE 6. DISTRIBUTION OF WEEKLY WAGE RATES : WAGE RATES INDEXES, DECEMBER 1977 (a)

Weekly wage rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime) as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
ADULT MALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$) -	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 100.00	..	..	..	..	1.0	..	0.1
110.00 to 114.99	1.2	0.3	1.9	1.2	3.1	0.4	1.2
115.00 to 119.99	2.5	0.4	0.4	2.6	4.6	1.6	1.8
120.00 to 124.99	10.0	10.8	1.6	8.2	9.1	6.2	8.6
125.00 to 129.99	8.2	7.9	7.4	9.0	7.8	8.6	8.1
130.00 to 134.99	5.7	8.0	5.6	6.7	4.6	13.8	6.6
135.00 to 139.99	9.2	6.4	8.4	9.1	6.4	8.5	8.1
140.00 to 144.99	14.3	22.3	17.6	19.6	10.7	13.9	17.2
145.00 to 149.99	11.3	12.0	7.3	15.6	13.6	16.2	11.7
150.00 to 154.99	8.2	5.9	12.7	7.3	10.0	5.0	8.1
155.00 to 159.99	4.2	6.9	9.2	1.4	2.5	1.8	5.2
160.00 to 164.99	4.4	1.9	3.0	2.1	9.2	4.8	3.7
165.00 to 169.99	3.5	2.7	5.2	4.8	2.1	2.6	3.5
170.00 to 174.99	2.9	1.8	3.2	2.4	0.8	2.5	2.4
175.00 to 179.99	3.2	3.8	2.1	6.3	8.7	6.8	4.0
180.00 to 189.99	5.9	4.7	10.0	2.3	2.3	5.3	5.5
190.00 to 199.99	1.8	2.7	1.1	0.5	1.1	0.6	1.7
200.00 and over	3.9	1.5	3.1	0.8	2.4	1.5	2.7
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Weighted average (mean) (\$)	149.72	147.39	152.76	145.50	147.11	147.46	148.85
Median (\$ (b))	144.70	143.35	149.52	143.50	145.10	144.00	144.50
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	..	0.3	..	0.2	..	0.4	0.1
State awards, etc.	1.3	*	2.4	2.4	1.5	0.4	1.4
All awards, etc.	0.6	0.2	1.8	0.8	1.3	0.4	0.7
ADULT FEMALES							
Weekly wage rates (\$) -	Proportion of index weights in each weekly wage rates group (per cent)						
Less than 109.99	..	..	..	..	0.6	..	*
110.00 to 114.99	1.1	1.1	1.0	2.2	..	1.4	1.1
115.00 to 119.99	1.9	2.6	3.2	4.4	12.6	7.5	3.1
120.00 to 124.99	7.8	6.6	2.8	8.4	9.4	2.5	6.9
125.00 to 129.99	22.8	28.6	16.1	16.6	10.7	29.7	23.1
130.00 to 134.99	12.2	13.3	12.6	8.2	7.7	23.5	12.3
135.00 to 139.99	4.9	5.5	6.5	6.8	6.0	2.9	5.4
140.00 to 144.99	8.7	6.0	24.0	8.6	24.6	4.0	10.2
145.00 to 149.99	24.6	10.2	2.9	26.9	25.8	23.9	17.8
150.00 to 154.99	8.2	10.9	23.5	15.5	1.5	2.3	10.8
155.00 to 159.99	7.1	2.6	6.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	4.6
160.00 to 164.99	0.5	11.3	0.4	1.4	0.1	1.1	4.1
165.00 and over	0.4	1.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Weighted average (mean) (\$)	138.65	138.89	140.52	138.64	136.06	134.91	138.71
Median (\$ (b))	139.60	131.20	142.00	143.10	142.00	131.50	138.80
Proportion of weekly rates equal to the minimum wage (per cent)							
Federal awards, etc.	0.5	1.8	..	1.0	..	..	1.0
State awards, etc.	0.9	..	1.5	1.2	..	2.8	0.7
All awards, etc.	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.1	..	1.4	0.9

(a) This table shows the distribution of weekly wage rates included in the wage rates indexes, the weighted averages and medians of the indexes, and the percentage of index weights for wage rates equal to the various minimum wages. Comparable figures for August 1977 may be found in the August issue of this statement. (b) The median divides a distribution into two equal groups, one group having rates equal to or above the median and the other having the rates equal to or below it, each group having 50 per cent of the relevant weights. * Less than 0.5 per cent. .. Nil.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977*, (1101.0).

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician